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CANADA

January 12, 2024

Dear Colleagues,

As you are aware, there is a lot of change occurring in the vehicle for hire industry as more and more of what started as the “sharing economy” modes of transportation options have become big business-like Uber and Lyft, competing with the traditional taxi industry.

And more changes are on the horizon as mandates around electric vehicles begin to take shape, leaving some significant uncertainty and challenges for the taxi industry.

In 2023 Council began to direct some changes to our current by-law regarding **age limits of vehicles for hire**. However, there are several components for all vehicle classes that I believe we can address in the short term to help provide a level playing field and update regulations that have existed since before the advent of alternative options to taxi services.

Over the last two months, in consultation with the industry and with our staff, I have identified 2 changes that we should consider.

One such change would be to formally address the need to change the 120-day operational period regulation. This regulation was suspended by the License Manager as an economic support initiative during the COVID pandemic and continues to be exempted on a month-to-month basis on individual requests due to driver availability and limited use vehicle availability in the supply chain. This has been shown to have no impact on consumer ability to obtain a ride but creates uncertainty for plate owners and additional work for staff to deal with on an ad hoc basis. I believe a move to a one-year period instead of 120 days, with an option for another year on request, would be appropriate.

Another simple change would be to allow for 2-year license renewal time frames, aligning with the changes made for a regular Driver’s License by the province of Ontario. This would provide some choice for **vehicle owners** and may decrease the workload for our staff.

Therefore, I am looking for your support for the following:

*Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to report back to the Community and Protective Services Committee with recommendations on possible amendments to the Vehicle for Hire By-law to address Cab Owner regulations on minimum vehicle operation periods and licence renewal timeframes,*

*it being noted that Civic Administration will be reporting back on vehicle age limits in 2024.*

Sincerely,

Shawn Lewis  
Deputy Mayor  
Ward 2 Councillor